

Message Text

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LIMDIS

FROM LOW

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

1. I WAS VISITED IN THE HOTEL IN SALISBURY BY SENATOR JAKE GARN'S LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT, MR. FITZGERALD, AND HIS TRAVELING COMPANION, ANDY MESSING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CONSERVATIVE UNION. THEY TOLD ME THEY WERE ON A FACT-FINDING VISIT TO RHODESIA AND PROCEEDED TO QUESTION GENE SCHMIEL AND ME ABOUT THE SITUATION. MESSING IS WRITING ARTICLES ABOUT THE TRIP AND NEITHER WERE HAPPY WHEN I ASKED THAT OUR MEETING BE ON A BACKGROUND BASIS ONLY. THIS LED FITZGERALD TO SUGGEST THAT IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE HAVING ME COME BACK TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE STUDYING APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS TO RHODESIA.

2. BOTH MEN, BUT MESSING IN PARTICULAR, ASKED HOW THE ADMINISTRATION CAN DEFEND SUPPORTING COMMUNIST AND COM-
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MUNIST-BACKED MOVEMENTS IN RHODESIA. THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER SCHMIEL AND I WERE CONVINCED SUPPORTERS OF U.S. POLICY IN THE AREA. WE EXPLAINED THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING THE PARTIES TOGETHER FOR A MEETING AND AGREEMENT BUT ACKNOWLEDGED COMMUNIST SUPPORT FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES -- WHICH THEY HAD ACCUMULATED DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT. THEY ASKED WHETHER WE THOUGHT THE INTERNAL

SETTLEMENT WOULD SUCCEED. I CALLED THEIR ATTENTION TO THE
LEAD ARTICLE IN THE MORNING RHODESIAN FINANCIAL GAZETTE
REPORTING THE INCREASINGLY REMOTE CHANCE OF A CEASEFIRE BEING
ACHIEVED AND EXPLAINED THE DIFFICULTIES OF RUNNING AN
ELECTION WHICH THE WORLD COULD ACCEPT AS A GENUINE
EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE UNDER THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. THEY QUESTIONED US ON TERRORIST VIOLENCE BUT WOULD NOT
CONCEDE THAT INNOCENT CIVILIANS WERE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ON
BOTH SIDES. FINALLY THEY ASKED WHETHER SANCTIONS SHOULD
NOT BE LIFTED. WHEN WE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE EFFECT
THAT WOULD HAVE ON OUR RELATIONS ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA THEY
RESPONDED THEY FELT IT WAS ABOUT TIME THE UNITED STATES
STOOD UP FOR DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE*
FARBER

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